

Letters to the editor
Frederick News-Post
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10/6/88

Michael E. G. Misulia, Jr., writes to advise me to "do some research and print a correction" of what he alleges factual inaccuracies in my letter published September 3.

"It's impossible to have a meaningful discussion without accuracy," ^{he declares} ~~he says~~.

"My letter to the editor," he says, "was published almost a week before the ACLU hit the fan in the presidential debate. You implied that my letter was published afterward." *Not so.*

What I actually said is that Mr. Misulia did not know what he was talking about and that he was parroting the cheap political McCarthyite slanders of those who by them ^{seek} ~~ought~~ political advantage. I made no reference at all to the presidential debates and I'm sorry if, despite his claim to be able to make fair and accurate comment about the major media, he was so abysmally ignorant of what had been all over all elements of the major media for weeks. As this disgraceful matter had been.

What Mr. Misulia really says is that if he doesn't know something it does not exist and he thereby is qualified to make fair and accurate comment on it. The rest of us, however, are not limited by the state of his knowledge - or lack thereof.

That darling of the right!
The American Civil Liberties Union, with whose actions I also have disagreed, is not, as he ~~said~~ ^{says}, "extreme." It is composed of Republicans and Democrats, liberals and conservatives, including some of the most prominent and distinguished Americans and lawyers from some of the most conservative law firms. It takes cases that involve basic principles of law and peoples' rights, without regard to politics. Oliver North, for example, is hardly some ^{not name} ~~far out~~ liberal, yet the ACLU filed before the federal courts in Washington on his behalf - even though all his considerable lawyers' expenses had already been paid to others. Recently it ~~has~~ filed on behalf of the Catholic church, quite the opposite of the misrepresentations of those seeking political office by the ^{slandering} ~~misrepresentations~~ Mr. Misulia loves and adopts.

"Without accuracy there is no credibility," Mr. Misulia lectures me in asking me to "print a correction."

That shoe fits you, not me, Mr. Misulia, and it is you who owe us a correction and, I suggest, an apology because your letter was intended to influence how we vote, who we select to lead this country in these trying times.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg
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